

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

CARLOS ARGUELLO,

Plaintiff,

v.

No. CIV-12-0939 LAM

CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting
Commissioner of the Social Security
Administration,

Defendant.


**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY FEES
UNDER THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT**

THIS MATTER is before the Court on Plaintiff's *Amended Motion for Attorney Fees and Costs Pursuant to Equal Access to Justice Act, With Memorandum in Support* (Doc. 23) in the amount of \$4,926.48 for attorney fees and \$350.00 for costs. In her response (Doc. 24), the Commissioner does not object to Plaintiff's request for attorney fees in this amount. The Court, having considered the submissions of counsel, the record in this case, and the relevant law, and being otherwise fully advised **FINDS** that Plaintiff's motion is well-taken and will be **GRANTED**.

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's *Amended Motion for Attorney Fees and Costs Pursuant to Equal Access to Justice Act, With Memorandum in Support* (Doc. 23) is **GRANTED**, and Plaintiff Carlos Arguello is authorized to receive **\$5,276.48** for payment to his attorney for services before this Court, as permitted by the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and in accordance with *Manning v. Astrue*, 510 F.3d 1246, 1255 (10th Cir. 2007).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if Plaintiff's counsel is ultimately granted attorney fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b) of the Social Security Act, he shall refund the smaller award to Plaintiff pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2528 n.4 (2010) (explaining that, if a claimant's counsel is ultimately granted attorney fees under § 406(b) out of the claimant's benefit award, the claimant's attorney must refund to the claimant the amount of the smaller fee).

IT IS SO ORDERED.


LOURDES A. MARTÍNEZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Presiding by Consent